

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 DODE-00 FEA-01

SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 ERDA-05 PM-04 /098 W

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R 130024Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1999

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

CINCPAC UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: STATE 212321

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5 OF THE REFERENCED TELEGRAM, WE SOUGHT UK VIEWS ON SPNFZ. UK MISSION OFFICER, DAVID LOGAN, INFORMED US ON SEPTEMBER 11 THAT WHILE THE UK IS NOT OPPOSED TO LAND BASED NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE SPNFZ WILL ENCOMPASS LARGE OCEAN AREAS CREATES SERIOUS PROBLEMS FROM THEM. THE UK WISHES TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHT OF AREA PASSAGE ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THE RIGHT TO INTRODUCE WAR SHIPS INTO THE AREA.

2. LOGAN FURTHER INFORMED US THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS TOLD THE BRITISH THAT THEY WILL VOTE FOR THE SPNFZ RESOLUTION BUT WILL NOT SPEAK IN FAVOR

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OF IT.

3. LOGAN TOLD US THAT IN THE COURSE OF A CALL BY A MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON ON HEAD OF UK ARMS CONTROL DEPARTMENT JOHN EDMONDS IN MID-AUGUST, EDMONDS COMMUNICATED THE VIEW THAT WHILE THE UK IS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE CONCEPT OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH IN THEIR VIEW SHOULD BE SATISFIED IF A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IS TO WORK EFFECTIVELY (THESE ARE THE STANDARD UK PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE QUITE SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.) SPEAKING PERSONALLY EDMONDS STATED THAT THE BRITISH MINISTERS "WOULD NOT WANT TO OPPOSE A NEW ZEALAND RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT BUT THE REAL SNAG ABOUT THE PROPOSAL WAS THAT THE INTENDED ZONE WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERABLE AREAS OF THE HIGH SEAS. THIS POSED GREAT PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF DEFINITION, VERIFICATION AND POLICING." LOGAN CONTINUED THAT EDMONDS WENT ON THE RECORD TO SAY THAT IF THE PROPOSED SPNFZ EMBRACED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES (SUCH AS INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE) THAT WERE NOT PARTIES TO THE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION TREATY, THIS WOULD "LEAVE A NASTY HOLE IN THE ARRANGEMENT."

4. LOGAN PROMISED TO GET BACK TO US IN A FEW DAYS WHEN HE EXPECTED TO HAVE A MORE ELABORATE STATEMENT OF THE UK POSITION ON THE SPNFZ.

5. WE HAVE SCHEDULED A MEETING WITH THE FRENCH FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR FREE ZONES, SPNFZ, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750317-1007
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750953/aaaabuuk.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 212321
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, XP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006